

Positive Christian Influences

by

Ellis P. Forsman

Positive Christian Influences

by

Ellis P. Forsman

October 14, 2011

Positive Christian Influences

Rom. 14:7

Rom. 14:7, *“For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.”*

Whether we realize it, or not, we influence others by our life daily. But we, ourselves, should also be influenced by the life of Jesus.

Jesus said in John 8:12, *“... I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”*

Without Jesus, the world is in total darkness.

God has placed the responsibility of giving the light to the world through his disciples.

Matt. 5:14-15, *“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.”*

Therefore, Christians are to be a good, positive example to the world.

At this time, we will examine how this can be accomplished.

Who influences us?

It should be Jesus Christ and His apostles.

- Matt. 16:24, *“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”*
- (Paul) 1 Cor. 11:1, *“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”*

Paul is a good example of influence on the world and he taught us everything we need to know how we can do the same. He even went from house to house.

- Acts 20:20, *“And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,”*
- Acts 20:27, *“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”*

Are we a good influence on others?

We have examples of the influence that the early Christians had on others.

- Gaius. 3 John 1:1-3, *“The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth. Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.”*
- Thessalonians. 1 Thess. 1:6-8, *“And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost. So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.”*

How about you? Are you a good influence on those about you? Do you follow God’s guide to us as to how that can be accomplished?

Are you honest in the sight of others?

2 Cor. 8:21, *“Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.”*

Do you obey the laws of the land?

- Rom. 13:1, *“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.”*
- Titus 3:1, *“Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,”*

Do you please your neighbors?

Rom. 15:1-2, *“We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.”*

Do you do good to all men?

Gal. 6:10, *“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”*

Whatever you do, do you do it in the name of Jesus?

Matt. 10:42, *“And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.”*

Do you treat others as you would like to be treated?

Matt. 7:12, *“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”*

How do we influence others?

Example, the good Samaritan. Luke 10:30-37, *“And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.”*

By forgiving. Col. 3:13, *“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”*

By being a peacemaker. Rom. 12:18, *“If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”*

By being hospitable. Heb. 13:2, *“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”*

By being concerned. James 1:27, *“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”*

By being industrious.

- 2 Thess. 3:6-10, *“Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for*

we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us. For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat."

- Eph. 4:28, "*Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*"

By being humble.

- John 13:13-16, "*Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.*" This is an example of humility, not a command to go around washing everybody's feet. It definitely is not a command for the worship service.
- Rom. 12:3, "*For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*"

By avoiding the appearance of evil.

- Exo. 23:7, "*Keep thee far from a false matter; ...*"
- 1 Thess. 5:22, "*Abstain from all appearance of evil.*"

By loving.

- Rom. 12:10, "*Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*"
- Rom. 12:9, "*Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*"
- Gal. 5:14, "*For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*"

Conclusion.

What kind of an influence are you to those about you?. Make your life a positive influence influence to others.

